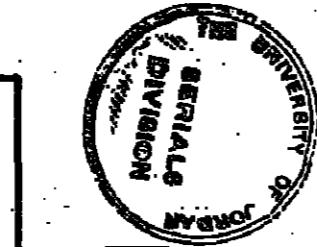


French farmers descend on Paris

PARIS (R) — Some 150,000 French farmers descended on Paris Sunday, handing out free wine, cheese and sausage in a colourful and largely peaceful protest against falling incomes and a flood of imports from Eastern Europe. Supported by the centre-right opposition, the farmers urged the Socialist government to revise European Community (EC) reforms which they said were forcing many of them off the land. "There are more than 150,000 of us today. If we can't get anywhere with that number, then it's certain death for farmers," said Alain Lehaque, one of 5,000 Breton dairy farmers who travelled into the capital in a convoy of buses. Agriculture Minister Louis Meigniez said on television he would ask the EC for permission to increase subsidies to cattle breeders, hit particularly hard by East European competition. He said the protest would strengthen his hand in negotiations with EC partners over reform of the community's controversial agricultural policy. Fearing a repetition of the violence that has scared rural France in the last few weeks, the government deployed some 10,000 police on the streets of the capital. Conservative leader Jacques Chirac had to dodge a bottle and several dozen cans hurled by protesters who accused right-wing parties of exploiting the farmers' plight for political gain.

Volume 16 Number 4815



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جordan Times يومية ميدانية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي

AMMAN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1991, RABIE' AL AWAL 22, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iraq ready to export oil, but no decision on U.N. terms

BAGHDAD (R) — Oil Minister Usama Al Hit said Sunday Iraq was ready to resume oil exports but gave no indication if it would accept U.N. conditions on such sales. Mr. Hit was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as confirming that Iraq was "ready to resume the exportation of oil and restore its commercial relations with its previous clients and restore its role in the international oil market." But he criticised U.N. resolutions which would not allow Baghdad direct access to the proceeds from the sales as an infringement of Iraq's sovereignty. The U.N. has approved the sale of \$1.6 billion worth of oil to allow Iraq to buy badly-needed food and medicines. But part of the proceeds will go to Iraq after war reparations and U.N. costs are deducted, and that money will be placed in an account under U.N. control. The U.N. also says it must monitor the distribution of food bought with the proceeds of the oil sale.

Polisario: Marchers threaten Sahara plan

ALGIERS (R) — The Polisario Front guerrilla movement has accused Morocco of threatening the Western Sahara peace plan by sending 30,000 of its citizens into the disputed former Spanish colony. Polisario, fighting for independence in its self-styled Saharan Arab democratic republic, said the Moroccans had crossed the northern border of the territory between Sept. 23 and 28 and were heading for the town of Layoun. The Moroccan government was "jeopardising the peace plan by unleashing thousands of Moroccan marchers on Saharan towns," it said in a statement issued in Algiers. The people of the thinly-populated territory are to choose between independence, as demanded by Polisario, or union with Morocco, which controls most of the disputed area, in a referendum in January. Three weeks ago, the two sides agreed a ceasefire in the territory after 15 years of fighting.

Wolf ranks British as best spies

BONN (R) — Legendary East German spymaster Markus Wolf, jailed by unified Germany, ranked Britain's spies as the best among his former Western espionage foes, according to a magazine interview released Sunday. But Bonn's espionage efforts got poor marks from Mr. Wolf, whose agents riddled the West German political and defence establishment until their cover was blown by German unity last October. "Maybe the English were the best, these James Bonds, because they were the ones I knew the least about."

Savimbi arrives in Luanda

LUANDA (R) — Jonas Savimbi, leader of Angola's former rebel UNITA movement, returned to Luanda Sunday for the first time since the end of a 16-year civil war. Thousands of followers gave the charismatic guerrilla chief a tumultuous welcome as he arrived in the capital three months after a peace settlement. Mr. Savimbi reached Luanda airport Sunday morning after a tour of three southern cities — Huambo, Lubango and Lobito — where hundreds of thousands of people also turned out to greet him.

Algeria devalues dinar

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria Sunday announced a 22 per cent devaluation of the dinar from Sept. 30. The Algerian (central) Bank also announced it had raised inter-bank rates for loans to commercial banks by one percentage point to 11.5 per cent from October 1. The exchange rate before the announcement stood at 17.32 dinars to the dollar. The statement did not say what the new exchange rate would be. Algeria faces a debt crunch. It owes a total of \$25 billion, three quarters of it due by the end of 1993. Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali has said the debt is disastrous. The debt service ratio has risen to 69 per cent from 18 per cent in 1988.

Arafat says PNC has contributed positively, urges Arab coordination

Baker: Time not ripe yet for invitations to conference

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN leader Yasser Arafat Sunday described the decision of the Palestine National Council (PNC) to recommend Palestinian participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference as a positive contribution to the cause of the peace in the region. He also called for close coordination among the Arabs ahead of further moves prior to the proposed conference, which is scheduled to be held in October.

Mr. Arafat, president of the State of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said in an interview with Radio Jordan that Jordan and the PLO were coordinating their positions. He said the PLO was also keen on coordinating its positions with Egypt, Syria and Lebanon as well as all other Arab countries. "whether in the Gulf or in the Arab Maghreb (North Africa)."

The Palestinians alone cannot confront the challenges without coordination with their Arab brethren if a comprehensive solution is to be found for the Palesti-

nian problem," said Mr. Arafat, speaking one day after the PNC recommended that Palestinians attend the October conference, co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

"Any solution to the Palestinian problem should take into consideration the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people and the interests and national security of the Arab nation," added Mr. Arafat, who was reelected president of Palestine and chairman of the PLO by the PNC session in Algiers.

Mr. Arafat said the priority for the PLO was to coordinate positions with the Arab countries before coordinating with the United States.

The Palestinian leader also called for an urgent Arab summit conference to "coordinate Arab positions, learning from past experiences so that the Arab World can confront the challenges facing it."

The PNC decision to endorse Palestinian participation in the peace conference, Mr. Arafat said, "gives a new momentum to the Palestinian uprising, which is the guarantee for a just peace."

(Continued on page 5)

He said the PLO had stressed the importance of Jerusalem and its status as the capital of the State of Palestine and renewed a call for a freeze in Israel's settlement activities in the occupied territories.

The Israeli policy of building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Mr. Arafat said, "poses a danger not only to the Palestinian people but also to the entire Arab World."

In Algiers, Mr. Arafat said Saturday that "we want a peace of the brave, not capitulations. We will not make any obstacles to peace, but we reject the Israeli conditions."

Israel demands that no PLO members, and only Palestinians from the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip take part in peace talks. It also insists that the PLO cannot announce the delegation.

"We aren't asking for the moon," Mr. Arafat said. "We are asking for what has been declared by (U.S. President George) Bush and (National Security Adviser Brent) Scowcroft," whom he quoted as saying Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are illegal.

(Continued on page 5)

"If they continue, this means there will be no land for peace," said the PLO leader.

"This question is not for me," Mr. Arafat said. "You have to ask Presidents Bush and (Mikhail) Gorbachev, the conference's co-chairmen. Do you want to argue for peace?"

Prime Minister Taher Masri said Saturday the PNC decision paved the way for forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

"Now, we expect that some Palestinian delegates will visit Jordan soon... and we will work together on forming a joint delegation to the proposed peace conference," he said.

The PNC dropped key conditions for participating in the proposed conference, recommending that Palestinians attend in order to argue for their case.

Palestinian legislators also dropped demands for a commitment before the talks that Israel would relinquish the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The council cast aside an insistence that the PLO actually

destroyed of Scud missile sites by two days to give time for the briefing row to be settled.

Mr. Livingston said the Iraqi go-ahead, given at noon on Sunday, would let the U.N. advance party finalise details of helicopter flights planned by ballistic inspectors due in Baghdad on Tuesday.

"A senior official at the Foreign Ministry told the advance party they could use the VIP building at the Al Rasheed airfield — and they have requested permission for the helicopters to fly in on the 1st or the 2nd," he said.

The helicopters would be ready for use on inspection flights over Scud missile sites in Iraq's remote western region by Wednesday at the latest.

An advance party of ballistic missile experts in Baghdad had asked leave for the helicopters, on loan from Germany and now in Turkey, to make the four-hour flight to Baghdad on Tuesday or Wednesday, he said.

Douglas England, head of the 21-member ballistic team, said Saturday they were delaying the start of their mission to supervise



MILITARY EXERCISES: One of the units of the Special Forces Sunday carried out military maneuvers using live ammunition and many kinds of weapons, tanks and personnel carriers. The exercises were attended by Armed Forces

Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, who was briefed on the training programmes and level of expertise of the special forces by its commander. Senior officers of the Armed Forces also attended the exercises

U.N. teams report full Iraqi compliance with demands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A

U.N. nuclear weapon inspection team which spent four days confined in a Baghdad car park resumed its mission on Sunday without incident.

Iraq has also removed the last obstacle preventing U.N. experts from using their helicopter on inspection flights, U.N. officials said in Baghdad.

Alastair Livingston, field operations chief for the U.N. commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said Iraq had given U.N. officials permission to use its Al Rasheed airfield in Baghdad as a helicopter base.

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Mr. Livingston said U.N. nuclear inspectors now in Baghdad would return to Bahrain Monday and a biological weapons team would leave Iraq Wednesday.

Team leader Davis Kay said in

that inventory was completed

(Continued on page 5)

Shamir hints at 'compromise,' but refuses to freeze settlement

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Sunday did not rule out compromise in proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks, but again refused to freeze settlement activity in the occupied territories.

He added that Israel would not participate in any peace talks that would force a solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the Jewish state.

If the Arabs expect negotiations to be a "kind of court attended... to get what they deserve according to one or another United Nations decision, they are completely mistaken," Mr. Shamir said in a special interview with Israel army radio.

"Negotiations between peoples is where the sides have to sit together and convince one other, in order to reach an agreement on those same issues that are being discussed," Mr. Shamir added, while not ruling out an Israeli compromise.

"It depends what the compromise is. It depends what we are talking about," Mr. Shamir said.

The peace talks are to be based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338.

which call on Israel to give up land occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for secure borders.

Israel contends the resolution does not require it to give up all the land.

The United States has criticised a recent flurry of Jewish construction in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as an obstacle to proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks, asking Israel to halt the activity.

Mr. Shamir said Sunday freezing settlements before negotiations would be a "precondition" Israel firmly rejects.

"We have presented a principle. There are no negotiations with preconditions," Mr. Shamir said. "There are many demands we could make of the Arabs and we can bring them up during the negotiations. They, too, of course, can make demands of us, but these will be put on the negotiating table."

Meanwhile, Science Minister Yuval Neeman, of the nationalist Tehiya party, and Minister without Portfolio Rehavam Zeevi of the right-wing Moledet party met with Mr. Shamir to protest the peace process they say will force

Israel into undesirable concessions.

"The time has come for the government of Israel to take its head out of the sand," Mr. Neeman told Israel Radio. "No doubt the noose is getting tighter."

In separate comments, Mr.

Shamir said he doubted the United States could play the role of honest broker in bringing Israel and its Arab neighbours to the peace conference next month.

Mr. Shamir's most senior aide Yossi Ben-Aharon went even further. He called Washington "prejudiced" since President George Bush called on Congress this month to postpone vital loan guarantees to Israel until after the proposed talks.

"There has been a tilt toward the Arabs, no doubt," Mr. Ben-Aharon told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Shamir said he believed a conference co-sponsored by Washington and Moscow would be held.

But asked by the newspaper Davar whether the United States could be an impartial mediator he

replied: "I am not sure."

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"The time has come

CARE International official discusses prospects for further aid to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Possibilities are strong for international supplementation of Canadian assistance programmes to help Jordanian children, particularly in the wake of the return home of hundreds of thousands of expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Sunday.

Mr. Fraser, who discussed the issue with Her Royal Highness Princess Bassma — chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) — in his capacity as president of CARE International, said he would pursue the matter further with the donor governments of the Brussels-based relief organisation.

Mr. Fraser said it was premature to discuss any definite amount, the nature of assistance or any timeframe for the proposal to materialise. "It all depends on individual governments" to whom he will be making representations, he

said.

The Canadian counterpart in the programme under discussion is CARE Canada. Mr. Fraser explained that he was seeking to supplement the programme with assistance from the national CARE organisations in various countries — notably Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Australia, Japan and others.

The CARE Canada programme involves offering supplementary food — dry rations — to 2,500 children in Jordan, according to Nabil Anbasi, a spokesman for the Canadian embassy in Amman. He said QAF centres in various governorates will identify the most needy and administer the programme. He could not provide any figure for the cost of the programme and Mr. Fraser declined to discuss specifics in his interview with the Jordan Times.

The former prime minister said there was an increased awareness that Jordan was in need of urgent assistance to there had been decisions on

help it cope with the massive flow of returnees and expressed hope that CARE International assistance will be forthcoming to the Kingdom.

However, he said, "relief funds are hard to come by these days," particularly because CARE had expended massive assistance to cyclone-hit Bangladesh this year and to refugees from Iran in Turkey and Iran as well as in Iraq following the foiled Kurdish and Shiite rebellions in that country.

Australia, he said, "is a small country in terms of people and resources," and is doing what it could in terms of assistance to the needy around the world. Australia was focusing more on the countries near to it in the Far East in extending aid, he said.

Mr. Fraser, who arrived here from Iraq and left for Brussels Sunday, said he would like to "see a permanent CARE presence in Jordan," but added that it was only in idea and concept and that there had been decisions on

the issue.

The veteran Australian politician said his country was highly appreciative of "the constructive and positive role played by Jordan in Middle Eastern politics." He expressed hope that the ongoing Middle East peace process would bear fruition so that the countries in the region can live in peace and stability and give more attention to economic development and progress.

His Majesty King Hussein met with Mr. Fraser last week as the Australian labour leader was on his way to Iraq to review CARE programmes there.

Representatives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and several ministers also held talks with Mr. Fraser last week.

CARE International was set up originally after World War II as an American organisation — Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere — before becoming a world institution offering relief assistance to needy developing countries.

Germany donates vehicles to help Kingdom fight illicit trafficking

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday took delivery of three vehicles that came as a gift from Germany to help Jordanian police deal with contraband activities and forgeries.

A statement from the PSD said that Department Director Fadel Ali received from German ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers the three vehicles, which are specially equipped to help police combat drug trafficking and counterfeit activities.

The statement said that the German gift was made in support of PSD's continued endeavours to fight all forms of smuggling at the regional and international levels.

Maj. Gen. Ali expressed the Jordanian government's deep appreciation to Germany for this valuable gift. He said that cooperation between the two sides in this regard reflects the strong friendly ties between the German and Jordanian people.

Germany in 1988 supplied the PSD with specially equipped helicopters to help it control drug trafficking in the desert regions and the border areas.

Coinciding with the announcement, the Customs Department announced that its officers seized two kilograms of opium and



Public Security Department Director Fadel Ali meets with Heinrich Reimers, German ambassador to Jordan. The German government donated three vehicles to the PSD to help it fight trafficking in the country (Petra photo).

half a million captagon pills along with other illicit materials. A department spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that in the last two months customs officers at Ramtha border post near the Syrian-Jordanian border have seized the illicit merchandise hidden in secret compartments of cars entering Jordan.

He said that the following were seized in a number of cases: 15,400 drug pills, two kilos of

opium, 200 grammes of heroin, 110 grammes of hashish, 87 gold chains weighing 435 grammes, 910 grammes of gold dust, 1,388 grammes of gold, 703 wrist watches and half a million captagon pills.

Journalism symposium discusses manipulation of press during war and in occupied territories

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international seminar on news coverage in war time being held at Amman Plaza Hotel discussed Sunday two working papers entitled "Lies in the Desert" and "Palestinian Journalists Under Occupation."

The first paper, submitted by two American participants, shed light on the manipulation of news and facts during the Gulf war and the Panama invasion on the part of the U.S. official information services.

In a letter addressed to the executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Mr. Shour said that the negative impact of the influx of returnees into Jordan are posing a genuine problem to the country and is placing pressures on the services needed to cater to the large number of returnees, including water, transportation and energy.

He said that preliminary estimates of capital investments in the housing sector, including costs of providing health services, transport, water and sanitation, amount to \$3.7 billion in addition to some \$4.5 billion needed to maintain the same standard of services for the next five years.

The minister's letter said that preliminary statistics show a 10 per cent increase in Jordan's population as a result of the Gulf crisis, in addition to a 3.5 per cent natural increase resulting from population growth.

The minister requested that his letter be circulated to member states of the UNCHS.

paper said each news report had to be censored by the military, which never allowed journalists to conduct individual investigations or reporting and insisted that journalists be moved in groups and be given specific information approved by the allied forces command.

The journalists sometimes complained about the way they were treated and the information given them but to no avail, the paper noted.

The paper focused attention on the fact that the attacking forces and the air raids in the Gulf war were directed at civilian positions in Iraq as the documents and the facts revealed after the war, but nothing of this kind was reported by the press and television networks.

Despite the agreement, the

works during the war itself.

Disclosures after the war showed that 70 per cent of the bombs dropped on Iraq had missed their military targets, the paper added.

The other paper on the journalists work in the occupied Arab territories referred to the repressive measures and harassments to which the Palestinians as well as foreign journalists were subjected not only during the war but also during the intifada and throughout the occupation, which started in 1967.

The paper, prepared by the League of Arab Journalists in the Occupied Palestinian Land, said that strict military censorship continues in news coverage and foreign journalists are allowed to

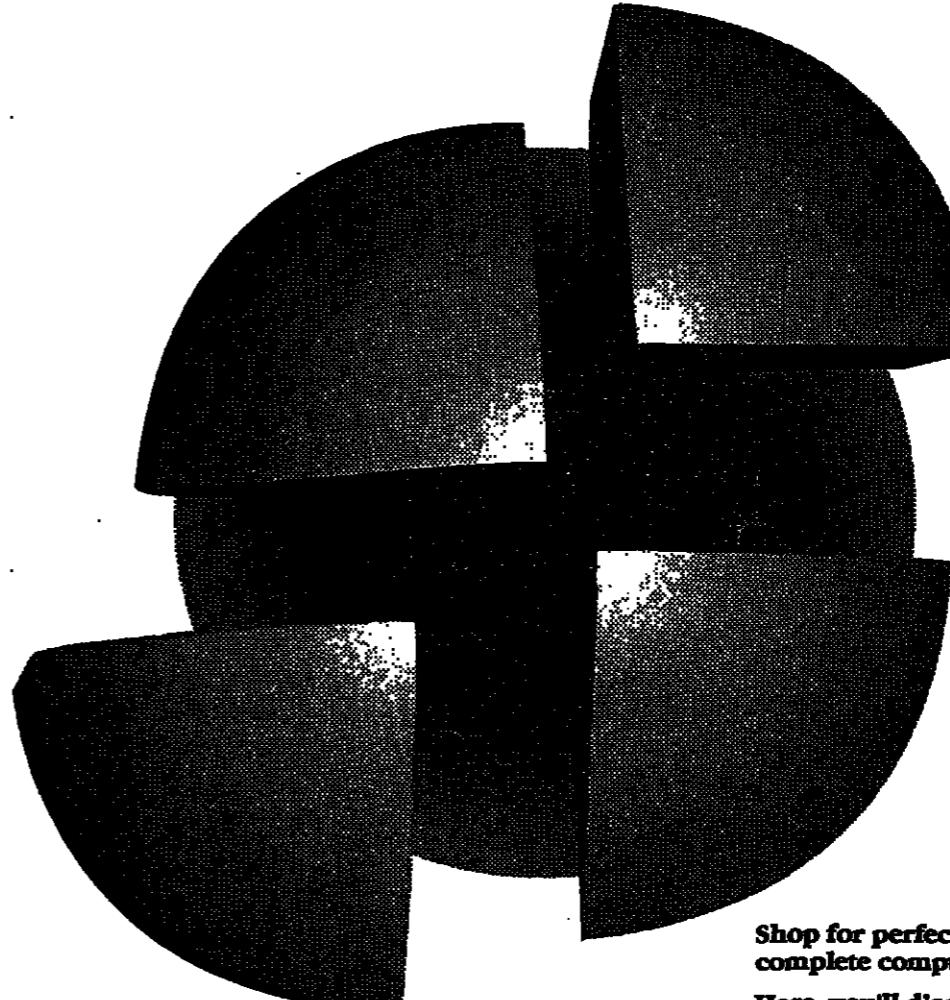
report very little about the facts.

The Palestinian newspapers have to submit all their features or news coverage or other reports to the military censor in order to get approval before anything can be published, the paper said.

The military authorities normally impose heavy penalties on journalists, newspapers and magazines if they publish anything considered unacceptable.

It said the Israeli ban on the publication of Palestinian culture or other materials that can enhance the Palestinian people's steadfastness or advocate human rights causes. Most Palestinian journalists are exposed to interrogation and arrest when their reports are not in favour of the Israeli government's views.

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Health Ministry to hire additional doctors and staff for expanding hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry has spent more than JD 13 million on expanding and enlarging hospitals in Salt, Mafraq, Tafith and Amman and has made special allocations in the 1992 fiscal year to employ an additional 1,003 doctors and health workers to cope with the services resulting from such expansion, according to Dr. Mustafa Al Barmawi, director of Hospital Affairs at the Health Ministry.

The enlarged facilities are Al Hussein Hospital in Salt, the government hospital in Mafraq, Al Baster Hospital in Amman and the Tafith government hospital. Dr. Barmawi said.

He said that the enlargements, which have been completed, cost JD 8.35 million and the ministry is in the process of supplying them with equipment at the estimated cost of JD 5 million.

The enlargements have made it necessary to hire "doctors, specialists, nurses, paramedics, midwives and other health workers." Dr. Barmawi also announced a Ministry of Health decision to start building the infrastructure of the new Karak Hospital which will be financed by the Italian Government at a later stage.

He said that the Health Ministry has plans to build hospitals in Russeifa and Deir Abu Said in 1992.

Aqaba tourist season begins with first plane load from Scandinavia

AQABA (J.T.) — The winter tourist season has started in Aqaba with the arrival at the winter resort Sunday of 100 Finnish and other Scandinavian tourists on board a Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft.

The group, who arrived in Aqaba on a direct flight from Helsinki for a week-long stay to visit tourist and archaeological sites in Jordan, is the first such group to arrive in the country after the Gulf war.

George Bawab, the director of the Near East Tourist Agency (NET) — which organised the trip — said tourist groups will be arriving in Aqaba from Helsinki twice a week starting next month.

He attributed the revival of the Scandinavian tourist group programme to a visit to Finland last June by Her Royal Highness Queen Noor and the ongoing efforts exerted by the Tourism Ministry in cooperation with private sector offices in Jordan.

Earlier this month, Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kababri revealed at a meeting with tourist offices that his ministry was launching a wide scale campaign to promote Jordan and is enlisting the assistance of local and foreign tour operators to ensure its success.

The campaign will be mainly directed in Europe with particular attention to the Scandinavian countries, Germany, Italy and Spain, according to ministry officials.

Ministry Secretary General Nasri Atallah said that the Scandinavian tourists have been coming in groups to Aqaba for the past five years and the coming winter season will witness a resurgence of tourist activities with visitors coming from various areas.

During the Gulf crisis, he said, tourism to Aqaba was reduced to zero but it is hoped that the resurgence of tourist activity will be resumed soon.

Upon their arrival, the tourists were welcomed by Ministry of Tourism officials in Aqaba.

WHAT'S GOING ON

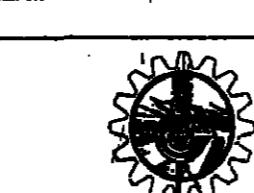
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by Charles Foster-Hall at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Marwan Al 'Allan at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hossain Jundi (copper engraving) and Sabah Al Yasini (ceramics) at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Jassim Abd AlFattah at Yarmouk University.

FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Le Magique" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.



HASHHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN POTASH PRODUCTION EXPANSION

CORRECTION

The Jordan Times Sunday published an advertisement for the Potash Production Expansion Project, No. 30-4857 (APC-25-90), giving inaccurate fax numbers for the project's site and the Amman H.Q.

The correct fax numbers are: 962-3-377125 - 962-6-674412. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

CORRECTION

Because of a reporting error, a Oct. 11. Also, the painting exhibition is not being done in coordination with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) as was reported. The Jordan Times regrets the error. The actual day of the march is

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الجordan times الجordan times

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

The people's choice

THE TALK about an imminent cabinet reshuffle has picked up momentum as the date for convening a peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict fast approaches. The Palestine National Council's (PNC) affirmative response to the impending peace talks has also accelerated the peace process and made inevitable that all the parties to the prospective negotiations get into the right gear for the historic change. After a long and sometimes acrimonious debate, the Palestinian house is back in order now and should be ready and able to participate effectively in the U.S.-led efforts for peace. It is only natural therefore that Jordan also undergo some change, like a reshuffle in the cabinet, in order to give the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri a clearer perception and a stronger mandate on how to proceed when the time comes for negotiating peace on behalf of the country. All the current cabinet ministers whether from the Arab nationalist groups or the Arab National Democratic Alliance or others who feel that the proposed peace party runs counter to their beliefs or interests have every right to express their views and to do what their conscience dictates to them. No one expected that our country will be totally monolithic on such a momentous occasion as indeed none of the other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict is fully behind the decision to give peace in the region a chance. But as some of us in this part of the world have democratic rights so must a national verdict on fundamental policy issues be taken by democratic means.

The greater majority of Jordanians, especially the silent ones, are openly in favour of waging peace under unique circumstances that promise an active American involvement in the quest for a durable and just peace and stability in the Middle East. Never had the Palestinian conflict or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict enjoyed such an American official support to the peace initiative as is the case now. Granted that the ultimate purposes and intents of President George Bush and his administration can never be completely assessed with precision at this point in time. Nevertheless the parties to the projected peace negotiations have enough positive signals to go on given the unprecedented bold and courageous posture of the American president on the issue of regional peace.

Jordan needs and is entitled to have a strong and united government that has the strength of its convictions. In many ways, such a cabinet would be a government of extraordinary times bordering on a national salvation government. In the final analysis any peace treaty that may emerge from the anticipated peace negotiations between Jordan and Israel should be submitted to the two houses of Parliament for scrutiny and approval or rejection as the representatives of the people would deem proper. But as the negotiating process is expected to be a long and drawn out exercise, the people of Jordan would have by the end of such negotiations another occasion to elect their new representatives to the new parliament on the basis of the ensuing national debate over the issue of peace in the area and others. The people of Jordan deserve a chance to make their voice heard on this matter when the time arrives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily discussed Israel's reaction to the Palestine National Council's approval of the U.S.-sponsored peace process and said that the Israeli government's cool response came as no surprise to any one. The Israelis have been hoping that the Palestinians will not accept the U.S. plan and have been declaring publicly that no PLO representatives would be allowed to participate in the peace process, the paper noted. But, it said, the Palestinian response disappointed the Israelis who had hoped that a "no" answer would save them the trouble of having to negotiate with the Arabs over the occupied territories and the question of permanent peace. The Israelis have also been launching propaganda campaigns against Jordanian-Palestinian joint action, trying to draw a wedge between the two sides in the hope that the Palestinians would eventually reject Jordan's efforts for a joint umbrella for the peace negotiations, the paper noted. It said that again the Israelis are disappointed since nothing of this kind is going to happen simply because Jordan has repeatedly announced that the Palestinians would have to deal with their own issues with the Israelis once the conference got under way. Jordan, said the paper, will continue to offer support for the Palestinian people, to help them regain their rights, and will continue to play a very positive role to help the establishment of peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticised the Telecommunications Corporation's public telephone services and said that the number 121, which is supposed to answer calls by members of the public seeking a telephone number, never satisfies the callers. People turn to number 121 at the central telephone exchange installed by the corporation in order to find out telephone numbers of people and organisations which are not listed in the 1987 telephone directory, said Nazif. The writer said that since 1987 many changes were introduced to telephone lines and new telephones were installed and therefore it is impossible to find telephone numbers in the 1987 telephone books. He said that 121 is supposed to offer the service to the public efficiently and promptly; otherwise new phone books should be issued with all the numbers. The writer said that the Telecommunications Corporation which usually quick to disconnect telephone lines when subscribers delay payment of their bills, also has a duty to maintain its services to the subscribers and the public in general. He suggested that the corporation increase the number of employees because obviously those in charge of the service are insufficient; else it must cancel this service to the public altogether after openly declaring its failure to cope with this task.

Weekly Political Pulse

Palestinians gamble on peace

THE middle course adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) at its milestone Algiers conference shows beyond a shadow of doubt that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has come of age at last. As the old saying goes, once bitten, twice shy, the Palestinians have been repeatedly bitten in the past, notably on the occasion of the United Nations partition plan for Palestine. Now they decided to be shy and stay aloof from abstract objectives that brought them one disaster after the other. By "conditionally" accepting to take part in the impending peace conference on the Middle East, the PLO has in effect signalled their asset to play ball under the prevailing imperfect conditions. This Palestinian position is no different from the positions of the other parties to the Arab-Israeli conflicts, especially Israel, which is still insisting on receiving a memorandum of understanding before responding to the expected invitation to attend the peace talks. In fact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is counting on "letter of assurance" from Washington before he would bother to nod approvingly to the conference idea. If this is not a conditional acceptance, one does not know what is.

This new Palestinian perception about the peace prospects has obviously emerged not only from a sophisticated realisation and appreciation of the new regional and international developments but also from their bitter experience about lost opportunities. The Palestinian counterview, opposing the "moderate" concessions in

favour of the peace process, appears to be espoused by political dimissives that belong to a bygone era. By clinging to the notion that military struggle against Israel is still a viable option, the so-called extremist forces within the Palestinian ranks exemplify a fossilised perception that could not withstand the test of time in the past and is less likely to do so in the future, given the rise of a new international order from the ashes of the old international political structure.

What remains to be seen is whether and how Tel Aviv would respond to this new Palestinian thinking and perspective. The odds are that Israel would not react in-kind to the new Palestinian orientation and most probably would do everything under the sun to sabotage or derail it. The Zionist strategy had always counted on a set of factors among which is a continued Palestinian rejection of taking Israel to task and putting its true intentions to test under international scrutiny and surveillance.

This time around, the PLO has demonstrated quite clearly that it has learnt from past errors of judgment and has decided to call Israel's bluff once and for all. Maybe the Palestinians would not emerge victorious from the peace conference and perhaps they would not attain their minimum national aspirations, but they would at least expose Israel to the maximum and lay to rest all false protestations that it was the Palestinians who prevented the

achievement of durable and just peace all along. How the PLO can cash in on such a political triumph is something else. Washington and the rest of the major capitals may still not be able to deliver on their repeated pledge to attain honourable peace terms for the Palestinians if they only join the peace process. Israel's hold on the decision-making process in most of the countries that help shape the course of the so-called new order is so strong that they might not be able to liberate themselves enough to come to the Palestinian rescue in spite of heavy Palestinian investment in the peace process.

Still in the long term the Palestinians would come out ahead by first showing their own people and the peoples of the other Arab countries that they have acted in good faith and have left no stone unturned in order to gain permanent peace with justice. Winning the public opinion battle would revitalise the Palestinians with stronger than ever determination to pursue their legitimate goals. The other Arab peoples' sympathy and solidarity would also grow stronger and more effective than ever in the wake of the failed Palestinian efforts to sue for peace for themselves and the other peoples of the region. Internationally, the peoples and governments of the world would likewise rise to the new challenges brought about by the Israeli stubbornness and defiance of all reasonable peace overtures from the Palestinian and other Arab sides.

By Waleed Saad

Poll: Most Soviets want Jews out

MOSCOW — More than half the Soviet people want all Jews to leave the country, according to a poll released this week at the first international conference on anti-Semitism ever held in the Soviet Union.

More than ten per cent of those polled said all Jews should be moved to the Far East, and more than half believe the fight against Zionism should be strengthened.

The two-day conference was organised as a parallel activity of the month-long meeting of the 38-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which monitors compliance with the Helsinki accords on human rights.

The poll backs up a conclusion of more than a dozen speakers at the conference — anti-Semitism is becoming rampant as the country moves from communism to democracy.

"It's not the totalitarian anti-Semitism which we're used to and which was hypocritical. Now, it is open anti-Semitism," said Dr. Michael Chlenov, co-president of the Va'ad, the confederation of Soviet Jewish organisations and communities which sponsored the conference.

"Like Nazism, this open anti-Semitism is spreading around the Russian Federation in large cities, though in other republics we see the totalitarian anti-Semitism which we know very well," he said.

Vladimir Shapiro, a professor at the Institute of Sociology in Moscow and head of the Jewish Scientific Centre which conducted the poll, said the results indicate that anti-Semitism has reached "a very alarming" level.

He said 4,200 people were surveyed in 10 Soviet cities last October. It included about 25 Jews.

Mark Krasnoselsky, who coordinates the monitoring of anti-Semitism in the Soviet media, said attacks have increased, with between 50 and 70 publications in Moscow alone preaching hatred

of Jews.

A neo-Nazi movement "which wants to drive out all the Jews" is emerging in the Soviet Union.

Unlike other European states, there are no laws banning such organisations, he said.

"All this has brought about a situation which endangers the life of Jews," Mr. Krasnoselsky said.

"Many have been forced to leave by this hatred."

Mr. Shapiro said two smaller polls show a Jewish community fearing a new wave of pogroms.

Some 39 per cent of the Jewish leaders polled in January thought pogroms were possible in the near future, compared with 48 per cent in December 1989. And 31 per cent of Moscow Jews polled in June and July foresaw the possibility of a pogrom by the year's end.

"The extreme Russian right blames the Jews for bringing about communism, and the old communist left blames the Jews for bringing about the downfall of communism."

In the poll of 4,200 mainly non-Jews, only 14 per cent expected pogroms.

"We are seeing reminders of what happened in fascism Germany," said Yuri Sokol, speaking on behalf of Soviet Jewish veterans and victims of ghettos and concentration camps. "The next step is pogroms."

He said Jews are being blamed for everything, including the country's serious economic problems and widespread food shortages.

Irwin Cotler, a Canadian Jew-

ish leader and law professor at McGill University, added: "The extreme Russian right blames the Jews for bringing about communism, and the old communist left blames the Jews for bringing about the downfall of communism."

Many non-Jews believe the departure of the Jews will give them a better life, Mr. Shapiro said.

Even though thousands of Soviet Jews are emigrating, fighting anti-Semitism is important for the thousands remaining behind in the big cities and the Muslim-dominated Central Asian republics, which are quickly becoming independent, said Soviet attorney David Akselbart.

Mark Batumsky, a Soviet Islamic expert, said the Central Asian republics will soon choose between Turkish-style democratic government and Iranian-style fundamentalism, and he urged Western nations to take an active interest in the outcome.

Arab countries are attempting "to become their patrons," and this could worsen the already difficult position of Jews living in those republics, he said.

Officials in the predominantly Muslim republic of Azerbaijan have denied accusations that they recently reinstated restrictions on Jews seeking to emigrate. "We do not intend to hinder them or other nationalities from going abroad," Azerbaijani spokesman Manaf Agayev told the TASS news agency.

Some 200 academics, scholars and leaders of Jewish organisations from all over the world are attending the conference, the first of its kind in the Soviet Union. Debra Lipstadt, an author and professor of Jewish history at Occidental College in California, called it historic.

"For Israel to participate shows how far we have come in the last three or four years," added Myrna Shainbaum, director of Soviet and East European affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, (AP)

Baltic independence revives Polish-Lithuanian tension

By Alister Doyle
Reuter

communists," said parliamentary spokesman Andrius Azabalis.

"It's unfortunate that a lot of

communists are Poles, Russians and other nationalities."

With Baltic neighbours Latvia and Estonia, Lithuania won independence this month from Moscow, 51 years after the three were incorporated into the Soviet Union by Stalin.

Poles make up seven per cent of Lithuania's 3.7 million population and Russians nine per cent. But more than 80 per cent of Salcininkai's residents are Poles.

The government has removed the Polish and Russian council leaders and imposed Lithuanian administrators for up to a year. In that time, new elections are due to be held but no date has been fixed.

"When the elections are held, maybe they'll reflect all these former communists. Okay, that's fine, but they'll have to respect our laws," Mr. Azabalis said. Lithuania, like several other Soviet republics, has banned the Communist Party.

"We want to have Polish leaders, not Lithuanian ones. Lithuanians are the leaders everywhere now," said Tadeusz Staszni, 27, a Polish resident.

Many in the newly independent Baltic states resent Russians as colonists who came after 1940.

Lithuania and Poland have a long history of conflict, although the two were united as a single kingdom for hundreds of years from 1387. At that time they formed the biggest country in Europe.

The two countries fought a brief war in 1920 over their rival claims to the city of Vilnius.

Foreign nations, including the United States, have called on the Baltic nations to respect human rights of minorities as they move towards democracy and market

economics.

Lithuania, where 80 per cent of residents are ethnic Lithuanians, has granted citizenship to everyone living in the republic in November 1989.

Latvia and Estonia, with larger proportions of immigrants, face a tougher debate on citizenship.

"I feel I am Polish," said Franck Gruszak, born in Salcininkai in 1930. Since then, the town has been under Polish, German, Soviet and now Lithuanian rule.

"No one knows if things will be better than under Soviet rule. Not much has changed yet."

Other Poles expressed fears they might lose jobs or that Polish-language schools, opened only a few years ago, would be shut down.

The Polish flag, which used to fly over the communist-led council building, has been replaced by Lithuania's red, yellow and green flag.

Engenius Petras, head of the Lithuanian parliament's investigation into the council, said two Lithuanian local authorities were dissolved earlier this year for ignoring Lithuania's declaration of independence.

After Lithuania declared independence, he said, the Polish councils continued to operate under Soviet law.

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Mongolian Muslims dream of independence

By James Kyne
Reuter

year

after Kazakhstan's President

Nursultan Nazarbayev

announced that homecoming

foreign Kazakhs would be

granted residence.

They said the exodus had surged since the failed coup in the Soviet Union enhanced Kazakh dreams of an independent state bigger than Western Europe and armed with nuclear weapons.

Mr. Utkhan, who is also a member of Kazakhstan's democratic movement Azat, said the emigration would help boost the number of Kazakhs in Kazakhstan to a majority over Russians and other ethnic groups.

"There will be an election on the issue of independence and if Kazakhs are a majority, we will win it," he said.

Figures on how many have left Mongolia differ widely. The official Mongolian news agency Mongtsema has said some 2,000 families have already left but unofficial estimates in Olgii ranged as high as 30,000 emigrants as of mid-September.

Perhaps the only centre of purposeful activity was near the main square where queues of haulage trucks destined for Kazakhstan were being loaded with personal belongings, including fur-lined coats, furniture and nomad's tents called yurts.

Some people around the square said they would travel by truck the more than 1,000 kilometres to Kazakhstan. Others said they would go by plane via Mongolia's capital Ulan Bator.

Mr. Utkhan said Mongolian Kazakhs, particularly nomadic herdsman, would be especially welcome in Kazakhstan because they are considered culturally purer than Soviet Kazakhs or those living in the far western Chinese region of Xinjiang.

Allied warplanes, troops would face problems in Iraq

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. and allied forces would face political and technical problems in carrying out any order to protect U.N. arms inspectors in Iraq — and Baghdad knows it, according to military analysts

NC contributed positively

(Continued from page 1)

source the full composition of Palestinian delegation. But it is agreed that the PLO has a right to choose Palestinian representatives to the talks.

Jordan has said it was willing to be in the joint delegation, if the US accepted. But it has stressed that Jordanians will not speak behalf of Palestinians.

US Secretary of State James Baker welcomed the Palestinian delegation but said he was still ready to issue invitations to the meeting.

"We still have some things that must have to be done in order to be assured that all of the parties are really ready to come to the table," he told reporters today.

"Any time we see support for the prospect of trying to create a peace process in the Middle East, we're glad to see that," said Baker, in New York for a series of meetings around the agenda of the UN General Assembly.

He said Palestinians, particularly those living in the Israeli-occupied territories, had the most to gain from a viable peace process and the most to lose if there is not one.

Mr. Baker, who has seen key Middle Eastern officials in New York this week, may return to the US soon.

State Department officials said there were no plans yet to meet Palestinian leaders in Washington.

N. teams report Iraqi compliance

(Continued from page 1)

Friday evening and Mr. Kay said all those documents had now been flown out of the country.

He said the documents gave irrefutable new evidence of Iraq's movement overseas of nuclear materials and knowledge and an extensive view into "the actual weapons development side of the programme."

They consisted of 5,000 pages records, 19 hours of videotapes and 3,000 photographs.

The Baghdad Observer said in its editorial on Sunday that Mr. Kay had "a far different goal than being informed of the technicalities of Iraqi nuclear installations."

It said he was the sole leader of

all the weapon inspection teams to have visited Iraq to encounter difficulties and pointed out that he was American.

"Hence one can link his strange row over making an inventory of the documents he wanted to seize to the US anti-Iraq policy which centres on interfering in the internal affairs and undermining the legitimate government," it added.

The ruling Baath party newspaper Al Thawra carried a report Sunday quoting an unnamed diplomatic source in New York as saying one member of the nuclear inspection group was a double agent for the CIA and Mossad.

It said the man, which it named as Nino David, was an Israeli.

hamir hints at 'compromise,' but no freeze in settlements

(Continued from page 1)

"I have many doubts if it will be able to fulfill this task because of its recent behaviour and there is no better candidate." Mr. Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker want to capitalise on the Gulf war shake-up in the Middle East and waning leftist influence to try to end the year-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

Apparently undaunted by Israel's powerful US lobby, Mr. Bush has threatened to use Washington's immense financial muscle over the Jewish state.

U.S. officials have linked the summing of \$10 billion in loan guarantees to house an influx of leftist Jews to a freeze on Jewish settlement in occupied land which Mr. Bush sees as a major obstacle to peace.

"This link between the economic and political is unfortunate," Mr. Ben-Aharon said. "It is not conducive either to (U.S.-Israel) relations or to the peace process."

"We hope we won't be facing any more American pressure... or demands that we can't accede to."

Mr. Ben-Aharon stopped short of saying the U.S. had blown its role of honest broker "because so much depends on the feeling of both sides that in spite of these obstacles there is an inherent interest in achieving some results for the benefit of both sides and that sometimes supersedes even bungling by outside factors."

He said Israel was still working with U.S. officials on the assumption that it would attend the peace conference but he was not sure what the talks would achieve.

"I would say that we are not very optimistic because of the trend that has taken place over the last few weeks," he said. "Arab expectations have unfortunately been fed by the outside world including the United States."

"It affects our attitude to the process because if we know that

Morocco harnesses the rains

next week, though such a meeting could not be ruled out.

The Hearst news service, in a report Saturday by foreign editor John Wallach, said Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbatchev have tentative plans to launch the Middle East peace conference in the Hague in late October or early November. Mr. Wallach said his source was a senior administration official who asked not to be identified. He quoted the official as saying no invitations to the meeting will be issued until Mr. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin visit the Middle East in coming weeks.

White House officials travelling with Mr. Bush on a weekend trip to Sea Island, Georgia, said they had no information about the report. But they said Mr. Bush was already scheduled to visit the Hague on Nov. 9 after a two-day North Atlantic Treaty Organisation meeting in Rome. Mr. Baker said Israel and the Arabs still had not agreed to final terms for the conference.

"I am not going to make any predictions," Mr. Baker told reporters. "I think we still have things that have to be done in order to be assured that all of the parties are ready."

Mr. Baker said negotiations could produce some form of "self-rule" and, ultimately, a permanent settlement.

"You know," he said, "we've been saying for some time that we think that there is an opportunity here, an opportunity really for all..."

IN the countries of the Mediterranean's southern belt, especially northwest Africa, the environment has been severely affected by successive droughts at the beginning of the 1980s. But the return of the rains does not necessarily mean prosperity — on the contrary.

The soil of these semi-arid, often mountainous, regions deteriorates rapidly under the lash of sporadic and violent rainstorms, vegetation becomes scarce and agricultural activities including stock-breeding, become more and more precarious.

These factors have played an important role in the trend toward the depopulation of areas which are usually far from urban centres and lack means of communication and essential services.

It is against this perilous decline, the source of serious regional disparities, that Morocco has decided to act. This country has long experience in harnessing hydraulic resources and the big dams constructed earlier fully proved their usefulness during the 1980-84 drought. From 1984, it launched an ambitious programme of medium-sized dam construction covering the sub-Adas geographical crescent from Oujda in the north to Ouarzazate in the south.

In building dams of various dimensions — some medium-sized structures ranging from 30 to 60 metre high, smaller ones from 10 to 30 metres — the initiators of the programme are trying to attain a variety of combined objectives such as protection against floods and a better utilisation of surface water for irrigation and other uses. One thousand million cubic metres of water can thus be salvaged to benefit irrigated areas of 15 to 800 hectares downstream from the dams.

The dams also help to replenish the underground water table, to increase the longevity of the big dams by combating silting, to produce electricity locally and to help settle the rural population by raising its living standards. Materials available on the spot or nearby are used primarily in their construction: dams are made of earth, stone or cylindrical concrete. Their construction should also help reduce unemployment and underemployment by providing work and incomes to large numbers of the unemployed.

At the request of the Moroccan authorities, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently collaborated in an evaluation of the effectiveness of the methods and technologies used, in searching ways to improve workforce management, and in producing a synthesis of the Moroccan experience with a view to possible applications in other countries.

Various consultancy missions have made a thorough diagnosis of several construction sites and confirm the validity of the approach used, both in terms of the quality of construction and the level of employment and training of the workers. In 24 of the 25 construction sites which were analysed, expenditure on labour was by far the largest item in the budget, often reaching and sometimes even exceeding 50 per cent of the total. Labour productivity is proving very satisfactory, although the productivity of the supervisory and services personnel could be improved.

The ILO has also helped to create a computerised tool for the management of the construction sites. This system makes it possible to calculate productivity, to determine the required technological standards and to control the progress of the work as well as the costs. Shortfalls can be detected and corrected very rapidly.

In all, 46 medium-sized dams had been built by the end of 1990, accompanied by numerous works upstream and downstream such as wells, tree plantations and boundaries.

The Moroccan experience has proved positive on all points and has inspired similar operations in other Arab and African countries. A seminar organised in Rabat under the aegis of the Islamic Development Bank has already contributed to the dissemination of Moroccan knowledge in this field — ILO Information.



Construction work under progress at the Oujda Dam in Morocco (Photo ILO)

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DAI LY PIANO

ENTERTAINMENT

Mansell keeps title hopes alive with Spanish Grand Prix win

BARCELONA (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell kept alive his hopes of winning the World Drivers' Championship when he won Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix and championship leader Ayrton Senna came home fifth.

Mansell, in Williams, finished the 65-lap race 11.331 seconds ahead of Alain Prost in a Ferrari.

Mansell's Williams team mate, Italian Riccardo Patrese, finished third ahead of Frenchman Jean Alesi in the second Ferrari. Senna in a McLaren, and German Michael Schumacher who came sixth for Benetton.

Mansell's win cut Senna's lead in the Drivers' Championship from 24 points to 16 with two races remaining — in Japan next month and Australia on Nov. 3.

The Briton's victory was the 21st of his career and came in his 163rd Grand Prix.

It was a win against the odds and in extraordinary circumstances on an overcast and often wet day at the new circuit de Catalunya.

The race began in wet conditions and was incident-packed with all the drivers going into the pits for new tyres as they switched and did the fastest lap of the race.

Prost won F-1 titles in 1988 and 1990 with McLaren-Honda in bitter rivalries with Alain Prost

of France, a three-time champion. Prost drove for McLaren Sunday and boost his chances of a ticket to next year's Barcelona Olympics. The 30-year-old Welshman burst away from the South African-born Prost in the final 100 metres through the centre of the former West Berlin to finish in two hours 10 minutes 57 seconds. Los Angeles-based Prost clocked 2:11:01, with Pole-Slavomir Gunti third in 2:11:45. Many of the British athletes viewed the race as a semi-official trial for Britain's Olympic team for Barcelona. British record holder Steve Jones, running his first Marathon for a year, was among the favourites.

Paris extends unbeaten run

PARIS (R) — Paris St. Germain extended its unbeaten run to 12 matches with a goalless draw at struggling Reims in the French soccer first division. The Paris club, the only unbeaten side in the league, are third, two points behind leaders Monaco and one point behind defending champions Marseille. Marseille moved within a point of Monaco by drawing 1-1 at Auxerre Friday. Monaco, cup winners and runners-up in the league last season, suffered their second defeat of the season when they lost 1-0 at Caen Thursday. Sochaux, who had a poor start, showed signs of recovery when they beat Nantes 3-1 Saturday, while bottom-placed Nancy went down 3-0 at St Etienne.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Welshman wins Berlin Marathon

BERLIN (R) — Britain's Steve Brace came off best in a tight finish with American Mark Plasties to win the Berlin Marathon Sunday and boost his chances of a ticket to next year's Barcelona Olympics. The 30-year-old Welshman burst away from the South African-born Plasties in the final 100 metres through the centre of the former West Berlin to finish in two hours 10 minutes 57 seconds. Los Angeles-based Plasties clocked 2:11:01, with Pole-Slavomir Gunti third in 2:11:45. Many of the British athletes viewed the race as a semi-official trial for Britain's Olympic team for Barcelona. British record holder Steve Jones, running his first Marathon for a year, was among the favourites.

Real Madrid keeps up the pressure

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid retained their Spanish League soccer lead on goal difference Saturday, winning 2-0 at Real Sociedad. But rivals Real Madrid kept up the pressure with a 3-1 home win over Sevilla who are in third, while champions Barcelona continued an indifferent run, losing 2-1 on a sodden pitch at Sporting Gijon. Both Madrid teams have won all their four opening games, but Atletico have yet to concede a goal. Atletico had an easy time in San Sebastian against Real Sociedad's young, inexperienced players. Gabriel Moya opened the scoring after 40 minutes and Juan Vizcaino struck late in the game to ensure both points. Two goals in seven minutes in the first half by Emilio Butragueno set Real Madrid on their way. Sevilla's only reply came from Ignacio Conte in the 62nd minute.

Welcome Ncita retains IBF crown

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP) — Welcome Ncita of South Africa retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior featherweight title by winning a split decision over Colombia's Sugar Baby Rojas. It was Ncita's fifth defence of the title, and his second fight with Rojas since February. Two of the three American judges gave the decision to Ncita 155-113. The third scored it 119-109 for Rojas.

Eintracht tops Bundesliga

BONN (R) — Eintracht Frankfurt fired three goals past Borussia Dortmund to take over the lead in the German Bundesliga on goal difference as title challengers VfB Stuttgart and Hamburg drew 1-1.

A first-half goal from midfielder Ralf Weber and second-half strikes from forward Lothar Sippel and German international Andy Moeller kept Eintracht's unbeaten run at home intact.

But after 11 games, the Frankfurt side are level on 15 points with last week's leaders VfB, now second, and third-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who briefly took over the top spot Friday with a 2-0 win at lowly Bochum.

Hamburg are fourth, one point behind.

With 12-times champions Bayern Munich failing to stamp their usual authority on the league, the early-season title race has turned into a close battle at the top. Just three points separate the leading nine clubs.

Bayern, who drew 1-1 at local rivals Nuremberg Friday, are eighth, three points behind the leading trio.

Reigning champions Kaiserslautern beat struggling Borussia Moenchengladbach 4-2 at home.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Engage in any studies that will enable you to have a clearer perspective about the future. Explore social interests that can bring you more peace and security. Be considerate.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Drawing about seeing everyone possible is just great and you can join them in some interesting activities but be careful to avoid accidents.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This is your day to add up your assets and your debts and get a good picture where you stand before going off on some new venture.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can do pretty much what you want today for you have the power of the planets with you to forge ahead to whatever new interests attract you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This your day to quietly plan and organize your future so that you will be able to find the forward advancement that is possible.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Now you have it in your power to show others you are a good friend to them by entertaining or helping them get some that is vital to them.

WIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind that requires you get the advice or backing of an executive in fine fettle and have fun.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A wonderful day and evening for you to thoroughly enjoy yourself as you most enjoy and be with congenial company.

Scorpio: (October 23 to November 21) Now you are able to get very involved in business and come to a new who appeal very much to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able to get some out of business and come to a new understanding with partners and to get rid of some opposition that have come up.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have lots of odds and ends to tie up these days so get them behind you before you go on to any new projects that you have plans for.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you have a good chance to put in motion a plan that brings you the good will of those you like most and it would be perfect for you to entertain friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your own family expects quite a good deal of you and it should not be that hard now for you to go along with what they expect of you.

TODAY'S SIGN: If your child were born today sit or have the whooshed about them and they acquire the necessary knowledge for such growth and progress. A good education and foundation in ethical matters will make it possible for them to have an easy success if that progeny learns to finish whatever they start.

"The stars impel, they do not control." What stars of your life are largely up to you.

The Williams team managed to avoid repeating their problems of the previous week in Estoril when Mansell was disqualified after a disastrous pit stop and appeared to lose his championship hopes.

Senna took over the lead in the 11th lap. He was passed by teammate Gerhard Berger the next lap and my Mansell the following lap as a brief rain fell and wet the track again.

Senna spun out on the 14th lap but recovered in less than five seconds to get back in the race, dropping to seventh.

He worked his way back up to third after Berger went out but was pushed down to fourth and fifth when Patrese and Alesi eventually passed him.

McEnroe beats Connors in Basle tennis semis

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — An eagerly-awaited semifinal between American veterans John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors proved a heavy disappointment at the Swiss Indoor Tennis Tournament Saturday.

Defending champion McEnroe ran away with the match, thrashing Connors 6-1, 6-3 to reach the final of the \$750,000 event, where he will play Swiss Jakob Hlasek.

Eight-seeded McEnroe, 32, needed just 78 minutes to finish off Connors who astonished the

Wright makes most of Arsenal league debut

LONDON (R) — When Ian Wright joined English League champions Arsenal Monday, the big club atmosphere. I thought that would bring out the best in me."

His best friend in soccer is Arsenal midfielder David Rocastle and their partnership was clearly a promising one Saturday with Rocastle snapping up the opening goal.

A week before his transfer, Wright had hit the headlines for threatening to report Palace Chairman Ron Noades to a race relations board for remarks about coloured players.

Now, as far as the tabloid press is concerned, it is "the Wright stuff" on the field that makes the news.

He scored on his club debut against second division Leicester in a League Cup tie Wednesday — his place ensured by the absence of injured England striker Alan Smith.

Graham was doubly delighted Saturday when Wright celebrated his league debut for Arsenal at Southampton with a hat-trick.

Wright only made the team because Kevin Campbell was rested amid Arsenal's highly demanding schedule which resumes with the European Cup trip to Vienna next week when the new signing is ineligible.

Graham said after the 4-0 win over struggling Southampton: "You pay top money for top players. Wright looks sharp, his finishing was clinical."

The result took Arsenal to fourth place in the first division, nine points behind runaway leaders Manchester United who won 2-1 at Tottenham Hotspur.

Wright, a Londoner discovered by Palace six years ago while playing non-league soccer, needed no convincing he had made the right move.

"I could easily have stayed at Palace — they offered me a good deal to stay," he said. "But I turned it down because I wanted to come to a big club and sample

United's unaccustomed ninth place but lifted Wednesday to third, two points behind Leeds and eight behind United.

United States midfielder John Harkes marked his first match at Anfield with Wednesday's second half equalizer.

Pozzi upsets Krickstein to win Queensland Open

BRISBANE (R) — Unheralded Italian Gianluca Pozzi, ranked 136th in the world, upset third-seeded American Aaron Krickstein in the final to win his first ATP tournament, the 21st of his career to date.

The 26-year-old from Bari, who has no personal coach, no previous experience in a major final and had won only six matches on the professional circuit in 1991 before this tournament, beat the former top-10 player 6-3 7-6 in 98 minutes.

"Maybe now I have a chance to play Davis Cup," the left-hander said after his shock victory.

Pozzi said he was not nervous going into the final against the American, who is ranked 86 places ahead of him in the world. "I had nothing to lose. I just tried to be as relaxed as possible," said Pozzi.

It was another nightmare ending to the Brisbane tournament for Krickstein, who was also runner-up last year, to competitor Brad Gilbert.

"I started really badly," said Krickstein, who had not previously lost a set in the tournament.

"I was missing shots and I got a little tentative. I didn't have much confidence."

Meanwhile, colourful American Andre Agassi is set to outshine world number one Stefan Edberg as the main attracting when he makes his Australian tennis debut starting Monday.

Edberg is top seed in the strongest field in the Australian Indoor Championships' 19-year history — a line-up slightly

weakened by last week's withdrawal of second seed and defending champion Boris Becker with a back injury.

But it is Agassi, the tennis rebel who won over the crowds at his Wimbledon debut this year, that the local fans want to see in his first Australian tournament.

Agassi, seeded four, has been drawn for a quarterfinal confrontation with the big-serving Yugoslav Goran Ivanisevic, who is seeded sixth.

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United States midfielder John Harkes marked his first match at Anfield with Wednesday's second half equalizer.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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JAMES JACOBY (1933-1991)
Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♦ Q J 10 7 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ A 4
♦ 10 5 3

WEST
♦ 9 8 4
♦ A K 2
♦ 9 6 4 3
♦ Q 2
♦ 9 8 7 2
♦ A K Q
SOUTH
♦ 5
♦ 4
♦ 3
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6 5 3
♦ J 6 4

The bidding: Three of ♦

One of the world's great players, James Jacoby of Richardson, Texas, died last month of cancer.

The son of the legendary Oswald Jacoby, Jim first represented the U.S. in the 1965 World Team Championship, losing narrowly to the Italian Blue Team. He was one of the original Dallas Aces and won several world team championships with that squad. His successors in national competition were too numerous to list here. On his father's death, Jim became the syndicated bridge columnist for NEA.

Jacoby's tip: The deuce should be thought of not as the two-spot but, instead, the lowest remaining card in any particular suit. When the situation warrants it, save the deuce!

Opening lead: Three of ♦

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Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman BankForeign Exchange Market Summary
(September 23-September 27, 1991)

AMMAN — As technical speculation dominated, the U.S. currency fluctuated within wide margins during the past week. Negative sentiment reflecting the dollar-mark yield differential continued to prevail, as the dollar ended the week an average of 1.02 per cent lower.

The bearish dollar sentiment that had started the previous Friday, after failure to breach resistance at 1.70 marks to the dollar, developed further Monday. Traders moved into the German currency early in the Far East market, but then shifted towards the Japanese currency in late Europe and early New York. Observers maintained that the perception was that the mark had risen enough while Japanese investors were expected to repatriate capital before the end of the first half of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. The U.S. currency thus closed at its lowest closing levels of the week against the yen at 132.74 yen, and against the pound sterling at 1.7435 dollars to the pound.

Tuesday the drop reversed sharply, ending a day of sharp fluctuations. Technically motivated players and speculators tried pushing the dollar through key support and resistance levels thus triggering stop-loss selling and buying. But the turning point was when corporate demand to buy cheap dollars, as the U.S. unit reached its low of 1.6625 marks, propelled the U.S. unit into an upward direction triggering a wave of stop-loss buying. The dollar closed at its highest closing levels against most major European currencies at 1.6872 marks and 1.7270 dollars to the pound.

Technical factors continued to dominate Wednesday, as the dollar proved resistance at 1.6850 marks, then support at 1.6770 marks, failing to decisively breach either. Observers maintained that failure to drop further was due to the existing short dollar-positions in the market. But despite a smaller than expected drop of 3.8 per cent in August's Durable Goods Orders in the U.S., when expectations had indicated a 5.4 per cent decline, the U.S. unit nevertheless closed lower.

The dollar rebounded Thursday, rallying to its highest closing level against the Japanese currency at 133.93 yen. Month-end commercial demand as well as fears of renewed tensions between the U.S.A. and Iraq provided some support to the dollar.

Despite quiet trading Friday ahead of the month-end, quarter-end and the Japanese fiscal half year-end, the dollar witnessed a sharp drop mainly against European currencies. Technically-driven traders had finally joined those focusing on the fundamentals and turned decisively negative towards the U.S. unit. The dollar was hurt by its drop through several support levels and by speculation that the U.S. President was about to announce large defence budget cuts. Fears were that the latter might weaken American economic activity on the one hand, and reduce federal borrowing on the other, hence causing downward pressure on dollar interest rates. The release of August's Personal Income and Personal Consumption Spending had little effect on the market. The former rose by 0.4 per cent while the latter rose by 0.1 per cent, in line with expectations.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	20/9/1991	27/9/1991	Percent Change
Sterling Pound	1.7310	1.7430	0.69 %
Deutsche Mark	1.6844	1.6699	-0.87 %
Swiss Franc	1.4755	1.4530	-1.55 %
French Franc	5.7510	5.6890	-1.09 %
Japanese Yen	134.40	133.20	-0.90 %

* USD per STG

Currency	20/9/1991	27/9/1991
1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.43	5.87
Sterling Pound	10.43	10.06
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.62
French Franc	9.12	9.37
Japanese Yen	6.96	6.09

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.5860	.6680
Sterling Pound	1.1951	1.2011
Deutsche Mark	.4105	.4126
Swiss Franc	.4720	.4744
French Franc	.1205	.1211
Japanese Yen	.5151	.5177
Dutch Guilder	.3642	.3660
Swedish Krona	.1116	.1122
Italian Lira*	.0549	.0552
Belgian Franc	.01993	.02003

* Per 100

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Oct 3, 1991
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Economists and bankers outline views on dinar value and future strength

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Economic analysts and bankers are unanimous in dismissing suggestions that the Jordanian dinar could decline in value against foreign currency in the short term. If anything, they say, the dinar could gain in value as the economic restructuring programme is consolidated and absorbed fully into the Kingdom's fiscal policies and the Middle East peace process continues on track.

Either way, banking executives are advising against any hoarding of currency, whether the Jordanian dinar or any foreign currency, in anticipation of any dramatic fluctuation.

"As far as I could see, Jordan has the ability to sustain the present stability of the dinar for a long time to come," said Abdullah Malki, president of the Association of Banks in Jordan.

It is an opinion widely shared by senior executives at Jordanian commercial banks as well as economic experts closely familiar with the Kingdom's economic policies.

"I cannot see any probability of the dinar declining in value in the near future," said Fakhri Bilbeisi, regional manager of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International which is undergoing a process of being converted into a totally Jordanian bank.

"The foreign exchange reserves of Jordan are pretty high," Mr. Bilbeisi noted. Indications are that the flow of foreign exchange will continue at a minimum level conducive to helping

the Kingdom's monetary authorities to sustain the value of the dinar even if Amman had to meet its foreign obligations, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Bankers recalled that the authorities had recently relaxed the ceiling on resident foreign currency accounts and said that this was another sign of official confidence in Jordan's economic performance.

According to Mr. Bilbeisi, another major factor which will determine the strength of the dinar is the political situation.

"The confidence in Jordan's economic stability will grow along with the progress of the Middle East peace process, and, to a certain extent, this will boost the value of the Jordanian currency," he said.

Dr. Malki conceded that Jordan faces payments in foreign currency to come current in its foreign debt servicing before launching further talks on debt rescheduling, and may have to draw on its foreign exchange reserves to meet its obligations. But, he said, "it is not in the interest of the creditors to pressure Jordan" and prompt a financial crisis in the Kingdom.

According to a senior source, Jordan is seeking to convert the arrears in foreign debts and interests into rescheduled principal with a grace period of 10 years for repayment. No further details were immediately available, but success in arriving at such an arrangement will remove one of the major problems facing the Jordanian economy. By extension, it will also eliminate any possibility of a decline in the

dinar's value.

"I foresee that there will be a continued inflow of foreign currency in the form of assistance, particularly from non-Arab countries," said Dr. Malki. "In addition there will also be a lot of unrecorded flow of foreign currency into the country," he added.

Fahd Fanek, a noted Jordanian economic analyst, also ruled out any decline in the value of the dinar in the short term. "The Central Bank's reserves are high, and there is foreign exchange being brought into the country by refugees" from Kuwait and other Gulf states, he pointed out.

The political process leading to Arab-Israeli peace talks in October, said a senior manager at an international bank in Jordan, "if properly handled, will have a highly beneficial effect on the Jordanian economy and its currency."

The economic restructuring programme is not only being followed, but also altered and consolidated to take in new realities of the Jordanian economy," he said, adding that Arab-Israel peace talks will help the King

dom go a long way ahead.

"All present signs are that the peace process is on track, and if the international community treats Jordan fairly in terms of economic approach and assistance, then there is no doubt that the dinar will stabilise further," added the executive, who preferred anonymity. "And this stability will reflect itself in the form of an increase in the value of the dinar against all foreign currencies."



Banking experts noted that

there was very little difference in the official local rates for the dollar set on a daily basis by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the value that the greenback fetches on the black market.

The discernible difference in the official and unofficial markets has remained at less than one per cent since July, they noted.

The CBJ rate for the dollar Sunday was 686/688 fils, down from 692/695 fils two weeks ago.

According to bankers the decline in the rate set by the CBJ does not really reflect the loss of value of the dollar in the last two weeks. But they explained that since the Jordanian dinar's exchange value is based on a currency of baskets, including the dollar and several European currencies, the fluctuations in the

rate of the dollar will not be fully seen reflected against the dinar.

"If the dollar loses a little against the mark, for instance, the decline will not be seen fully in the local rates since the loss and gain are within the basket of currencies," Dr. Fanek explained.

The dollar was changing hands in the unofficial market Sunday for 688/692 fils and some dealers said the rate might go down further. At the peak of Jordan's economic crisis two years ago, the difference between the official and unofficial rates was as much as 20 per cent.

"There is an abundance of the dollar in the market and that accounts for the insignificant difference in the two rates," said a banking executive. "There is

a feeling that this abundance may not last long, but, by and large, it is my belief that there will be a minimum amount available in the parallel market always sufficient enough not to bring any significant pressure on the commercial banks."

According to officials, commercial banks are managing themselves well to meet the foreign currency needs of their clients and call Central Bank for help very rarely.

In any event, noted a banker, "the Central Bank remains in a very strong position to intervene in the market wherever it finds it necessary to provide foreign currency. This has given a lot of confidence not only to Jordanian bankers but also to business men."

Moscow prints money at maximum capacity to avoid social explosion

nic reform.

"This would be a nightmare," he said.

The number of roubles borrowed by citizens increased 40 per cent from 132 billion at the beginning of 1991 to 186 billion by Sept. 1.

The best way to reduce import roubles, Mr. Abalkin said, is to sell "alternative goods" — land, homes and shares in businesses.

Meanwhile, the United States and its allies are feverishly working behind the scenes on ways to help the Soviet Union avoid defaulting on its \$70 billion in foreign debt.

"It's being worked on," said a senior U.S. official, who declined to be named. "They know and we know they have a problem."

Once considered among the most creditworthy of borrowers, the Soviet Union is finding it increasingly difficult to keep up to date on its debt payments as its economy collapses, oil output slides and import needs, especially for food, grow.

The intensive discussions among major industrial nations on the Soviet Union's debt difficulties demonstrates the dangers of a debt default that would sink the country completely out of credit markets in the future.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has called for an early meeting of economic policy-makers from the G-7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — devoted exclusively to a discussion about the Soviet Union.

U.S. officials said that meeting could be held in Washington this week.

Mr. Brady is also pressing for Soviet representatives to attend the G-7's next formally scheduled

meeting, in Bangkok around Oct. 12, before the annual meeting there of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Moscow has agreed to attend and U.S. officials said "there is no strong disagreement" within the G-7 to that proposal.

A senior U.S. official said Moscow was trying to calculate how much money it might need over the next four to five months to pay for essential imports and keep up with debt payments. He agreed that the financing gap might be around \$2 billion to \$5 billion.

The amount will depend in part on how quickly the Soviet Union's imports contract as its economy shrinks and on whether commercial banks will agree to keep trade credit lines in place.

U.S. officials were cautious about the help the United States and the G-7 might offer, but they ruled out a debt rescheduling.

"We don't think it's the answer and neither do the Soviets," the senior U.S. official said.

Even the increasingly independent Soviet republics recognise the dangers of a debt default that would sink the country completely out of credit markets in the future.

Some German bankers have called on the G-7 to guarantee commercial bank loans to the Soviet Union or provide it with a bridging credit to help it through the credit crunch.

But there appears to be little

China to continue backing state firms despite their losses

BEIJING (R) — China's communist leaders have stressed there should be no change in a policy of supporting loss-making state industries, an important test of their degree of commitment to economic reform.

A five-day working conference, which was attended by virtually all senior leaders except paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, discussed mainly how to rescue state industries that are sinking under a sea of debt.

There was no indication the Communist Party would allow them to be swept away by reforms that have transformed other areas of the economy.

U.S. officials expect Moscow to become a special associate of the IMF within days. That would give it access to the fund's expertise in drawing up reform plans, although not to IMF money.

Both the fund and the World Bank are expected to open offices in Moscow within the next two months.

Western diplomats said they believed China's constant power struggles were now centred on the economy with liberals arguing for drastic measures against the state industries that are draining national coffers.

The debate has been given added intensity since the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union that has left China's hardline leaders more nervous than ever about tinkering with their Marxist systems.

The working meeting is expected to pave the way for a Communist Party plenum to be convened soon.

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More fighting rages in Croatia despite efforts to reinforce truce

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (R) — More fighting raged in breakaway Croatia Sunday despite efforts to strengthen a shaky ceasefire that brought Yugoslavia a week of relative calm.

Croatian Radio said the Croatian-held town of Nova Gradiska, on the main Belgrade-Zagreb motorway in the centre of the breakaway republic, was attacked with mortars and barrages from multiple rocket launchers.

The fighting followed fierce clashes Saturday around Pakrac, a Croatian stronghold near Nova Gradiska, and heavy shelling of the eastern Croatian town of Osijek, where the office of the mayor was set on fire.

The radio said four civilians were killed and 22 people including 12 Croatian National Guardsmen were wounded in the Pakrac area Saturday.

Croatian forces launched an offensive Saturday evening in the Zadar peninsula on the Adriatic coast after a village near the town of Benkovac came under mortar fire, the radio said.

Tanjung News Agency reported fierce artillery duels and fighting Sunday near Sibenik, another Adriatic port further south.

The fighting near the coast followed a Tanjung report Saturday that the army was ready for an agreement to pullout of barracks in Zadar and Sibenik besieged by Croatian forces.

But the agency said Sunday that Croatian representatives in Zadar never turned up to negotiate the expected pullout.

Army withdrawals last week from two besieged barracks, in Sibenik near the coast and at Vinkovci in eastern Croatia, raised hopes for a limited disengagement of forces.

But as new fighting erupted the army accused Croatia Saturday of violating the ceasefire by continuing to blockade and attack military bases.

"Units, commands and institutions



Two Yugoslav sisters with children and luggage, walk away from Osijek to the Hungarian border.

in the area of the fifth military district (which includes most of Croatia) are still under blockade and attacks on military facilities also continue," Tanjung quoted an army statement as saying Saturday.

It said Croatian forces were violating a truce agreed last Sunday by Yugoslav Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

"The sources and routes of regular supply, medical care and evacuation are blocked," the army said.

The fresh round of fighting forced the International Red Cross to suspend operations in Croatia until it received guarantees of safety from the warring sides.

Three Red Cross workers were injured in Croatia Friday when their vehicle was hit by bullets and crashed into a ditch.

According to Croatian figures, more than 1,000 people have been killed in the fighting since Croatia declared independence on June 25 and its 600,000-strong Serbian minority armed to fight it.

Simon Smits, head of a European Community (EC) monitoring team in Croatia, said uncontrolled forces were responsible for the fighting in central Croatia.

Mr. Smits said EC monitors wanted to visit Pakrac Saturday but did not receive safety guarantees.

"The problem is there are forces on the Croatian side and the Serbian (rebel) side that are

not fully under the control of those who signed the (ceasefire) agreement," he told reporters in Zagreb.

He described Friday's attack on a Red Cross convoy as "madness."

Francois Robady, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Zagreb, said a nurse and two male Red Cross workers, all Swiss nationals, suffered cuts and bruises after their vehicle was attacked.

They were with a convoy of seven buses travelling to Pakrac to rescue 270 people, mostly psychiatric patients, trapped for three days in the basement of a hospital hit by artillery fire.

"The Red Cross emblem is not recognised here and is not respected," Mr. Robady said.

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"The Red Cross emblem is not recognised here and is not respected," Mr. Robady said.

Moscow offered to swap Wallenberg with Soviet spy

MOSCOW (AP) — An investigator into the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, who would be 79 if he were alive, rescued tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis by sheltering them in protective houses flying the Swiss flag.

Mr. Cotter had disclosed the swap report in May, but an interview with him Saturday provided the first details.

Mr. Cotter repeated that earlier this year Swedish lawyer Karl-Gustav Svingel said he was approached by the Soviets in 1966. Mr. Svingel said the Soviets offered to trade an unidentified Swede for the Swedish Soviet spy Stig Wennerstrom, according to Mr. Cotter.

Mr. Svingel, who lives in Berlin, had been engaged in East-West swaps for 30 years.

Mr. Cotter said Wallenberg was the only Swede known to have disappeared in Soviet prisons at that time.

Mr. Wennerstrom was convicted of four counts of treason in 1964 for betraying military secrets of Sweden to the United States and NATO. He confessed to having been a NAZI spy and spy for the Soviets since 1948.

Mr. Cotter said Wallenberg's brother, Guy Von Dardel, who was in Moscow for Thursday's meetings, told him that Mr. Svingel asked the Soviets the identity of Swedes.

"The Soviets replied, 'It is the Swedes you are looking for.' Mr. Svingel then said that the only Swede he knew to be in the hands of the Soviets was Raoul Wallenberg, but that he had died.

Whereupon the Soviets replied, "we don't trade corpses," Mr. Cotter quoted Mr. Von Dardel as saying.

Cotter is chairman of the Soviet International Commission on the Fate and whereabouts of Raoul Wallenberg, which met a Soviet inter-ministerial group including KGB officials Thursday and is expected to hold further talks this week. A Swedish-Soviet working group also investigating Wallenberg's fate met separately with the Soviet group Thursday.

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Ministers to try to reverse EC out of political union blind alley

BRUSSELS (R) — EC foreign ministers meet Monday to try to salvage their talks on political union in Europe, bogged down over a new Dutch blueprint.

Two thirds of the 12 EC states told the Netherlands at a stormy meeting of envoys last Thursday that they would rather go back to earlier proposals by Luxembourg, the previous holder of the EC's rotating presidency.

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"They sounded as if they

meant it. We will discover on Monday whether they did," a British official said.

Monday's ministerial meeting will provide another illustration of how the EC, until now largely an economic and trading bloc, is reaching out into new territory even before a political union treaty has been signed.

The meeting will adjourn in mid-morning to allow foreign and defence ministers of the Western European Union (WEU), a defence body grouping nine of the EC states, to consider various options for sending military forces to police a ceasefire in Yugoslavia.

Diplomats said the discussion will be largely hypothetical, since the conditions laid down by the EC for sending troops are far from being met despite a lull in

Salvador colonel guilty in Jesuit massacre

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — A jury has convicted an army colonel of the 1989 murders of six Jesuits, their housekeeper and her daughter in a landmark human rights case that strained U.N.-Salvadoran relations.

The jury acquitted eight other military men charged with killing the priests, but convicted a lieutenant of murdering the housekeeper's daughter.

The conviction of Col. Guillermo Benavides marked the first time that a member of the military was tried and found guilty of a human rights violation in nearly 12 years of civil war marked by repeated accusations of government torture, kidnapping and murder.

The Nov. 16, 1989 massacre of the Jesuits was considered a test for El Salvador's justice system. The United States, which financed the government's war effort, made prosecuting the case a condition for continued aid.

Jesuit and U.S. observers experienced mixed sentiments about the verdict, saying they believed that higher-ranking officers also should be charged.

"I'm not overly bothered by the acquittal of those of lower rank, though I believe there was sufficient evidence to convict them," said Father Jose Maria Tojeira, Jesuit provincial for Central America.

"I believe it is correct that the jury placed the blame going upward in rank, and we should keep looking up the ranks for more of those responsible," Mr. Tojeira said.

The three-woman, tow-man jury — who were kept hidden for fear of reprisals — told 4th Criminal Court Judge Ricardo Zamora their verdict after a three-day trial and 5½ hours of

defendants, wearing green fatigues with their insignia of rank and unit, listened to the verdicts sitting in a row before the judge, prosecutors, defence lawyers and about 100 spectators.

At Olongapo City, about 5,000 Filipinos, including hundreds of bar girls, braved heavy rain and marched outside the naval dockyard to protest against the Senate's Sept. 16 vote rejecting a new military bases treaty with the United States.

The demonstrators called for

Aquino warns against abrupt U.S. pullout

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino Sunday warned against an abrupt U.S. military pullout from the country, and bar girls marched outside Subic Naval Base to protest against a Senate decision evicting American forces.

Mr. Aquino appealed to the Senate to give U.S. troops sufficient time to withdraw, saying a sudden pullout would displace thousands of Filipinos working at Subic and worsen the sufferings of communities around the base.

Mr. Aquino's brother and sister were at his bedside when he died, Kirk said.

The spokeswoman said his health to his three years as a heroin addict, an addiction he kicked cold turkey in 1954.

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Seoul papers report protest in North Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korean newspapers said Sunday that an anti-government demonstration occurred last week in Communist North Korea, the second such protest reported in a month.

The influential Chosun Ilbo and other newspapers quoted a government official as saying the information came from a South Korean trading company which sells marine products to North Korea through a Chinese middleman.

North Korea, widely suspected of trying to develop nuclear weapons, reacted quickly and positively Saturday to the major nuclear weapons cut announced by U.S. President George Bush.

"There was a similar riot there before. But the riot this time was bigger than the previous one," the newspapers quoted the Chinese businessman as saying.

The newspaper reports gave no further details.

On Friday, the Japanese daily Sankei Shimbun said about 4,000 people in Sinuiju demonstrated on Aug. 27 against President Kim Il-Sung, who has ruled the North since the state was set up in 1948.

Army units and police persuaded the crowd to disperse peacefully, the newspaper added.

South Korean and Japan-based analysts say economic conditions in the North are worsening following the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union, one of North Korea's main backers.

Factories are working at only 40 per cent of capacity because of shortages of parts and raw materials, they say.

Meanwhile a senior North Korean official said Sunday that his country may accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities

if the United States withdraws its nuclear weapons from South Korea.

The remarks by Kim Yong Sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party, were reported by the official North Korea Central News Agency monitored in Tokyo.

North Korea, widely suspected of trying to develop nuclear weapons, reacted quickly and positively Saturday to the major nuclear weapons cut announced by U.S. President George Bush.

"It has repeatedly refused to accept international inspection unless U.S. bases in South Korea are also scrutinized.

Mr. Kim proposed talks with the United States on the question of withdrawing U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and indicated this would pave the way for Pyongyng to permit an international inspection.

He said the United States should also discuss with Pyongyng the question of guaranteeing the non-use of nuclear weapons against North Korea.

South Korea President Rob Tae-Woo said earlier Sunday that the United Nations Security Council could help force North Korea to accept international inspection.

"If the North does not give up its plans to develop nuclear weapons, we can't rule out the possibility that the northern nuclear facilities will be forcibly inspected by a resolution of the United Nations Security Council," Mr. Roh was quoted as saying by South Korea's Yonhap News Agency.

Polls show British parties neck-and-neck

LONDON (R) — Prospects for a November general election in Britain appeared to recede with the publication of a series of opinion polls mostly showing the ruling Conservatives neck-and-neck with the Labour Party.

The surveys appearing in British Sunday newspapers gave Prime Minister John Major's Conservative Party between 37 and 40 per cent while Labour under opposition leader Neil Kinnock polled between 38.5 and 41

per cent.

The centrist Liberal Democrats were rated at between 13 and 17 per cent.

The Conservatives were ahead in two of the polls, Labour ahead in three and the two parties tied in one.

Mr. Major does not have to call an election until next July but a better performance by the Conservatives in opinion polls recently led to speculation an election might be imminent.

Zoo gets royal helping hand

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A nature-loving Malaysian monarch has ordered the government to stop a golf course project that threatened to pollute Malaysia's National Zoo, the New Straits Times said Sunday. The ruler of Selangor state, neighbouring capital Kuala Lumpur, felt development near the zoo would harm the ecology and water catchment areas, the paper said.

Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Ibn Al Marhum Sultan Hashimuddin Al Marhum is one of nine constitutional monarchs who reign over their respective states and take turns to serve as Malaysia's king for five-year periods.

Couple discover bogus priest married them

PAVIA, Italy (R) — The "seven-year itch" took on a different meaning for an Italian couple who discovered their marriage was invalid because it had been performed by a bogus priest. The couple, identified only as Franco and Luciano in Italian newspapers, saw a magazine article about a man wanted by police for fraud. They recognised him in a photo as "Father Sandro," the "priest" who officiated at their Roman Catholic wedding seven years ago in northern Italy. Police said the man, Rosario Nastasi, had a long record of masquerading as a public official or priest in various parts of Italy. A local church official told the couple, who have a three-year-old son, they would have to get married again.